

Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

May 2023

Volume 24, Number 5

OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Overhead power lines are a necessity on the mine site for most companies. There is a continuous hazard that goes with this!

- Most of us know the regulations, but do we understand how to adequately implement procedures to eliminate this potential risk?
 - How do companies **identify** them?
 - How many times do powerlines **cross over haul roads** that are traveled throughout the permit?
 - What proximity are they to **designated parking** areas for mobile equipment?

Section 915 - Electricity - Rules and Procedures

Section 915 (39) – Equipment with booms or masts which are not properly protected shall not be operated where the booms or masts can come within ten (10) feet of an energized overhead power line.

Section 915 (40) – Overhead high potential power lines shall be installed as specified by the National Electrical Safety Code.

Section 915 (41) – When equipment must be moved under energized power lines and the clearance is less than ten (10) feet, the power lines shall be de-energized or other precautions shall be taken.



ODM sets clear objectives for how to help mitigate the likelihood of these hazards becoming real life accidents.

Don't forget about these best practices below that were incorporated into MSHA's Fatal alert in February of this year related to recent electrical powerlines!

- If your truck, boom, or mast contacts an overhead power line:
 - Remain inside the vehicle
 - Call emergency response personnel
 - Inform others to stay away
 - Exit the truck only if it is on fire. To exit, jump from the truck landing with both feet together. Do not touch the truck and ground at the same time. Then, shuffle both feet as close as possible for at least 30 feet as you move away from the truck.

